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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1992-1997*

MAJOR PROGRAMME I. MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, DISARMAMENT AND DECOLONIZATION

Programme 4. Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization

1. The preparation, format and content of the medium-term plan and its revisions are governed by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1(1987)).

2. Regulation 3.11 provides, inter alia, that the medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes and that the proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.

3. The revisions proposed below modify the titles of the subprogrammes and relevant parts of the narrative of programme 4, Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization, of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/253 of 21 December 1990 and issued in document A/45/6/Rev.1. The revisions do not reflect a fundamental change in the mandate, orientation and strategy of the

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* After adoption by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, the complete revised medium-term plan will be issued in final printed form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1).

programme. Rather, at the level of general orientation and overall strategy, they reflect certain changes to take into account most recent resolutions and decisions of the legislative and deliberative organs of the United Nations. At the subprogramme level, revisions have been made to reflect certain changes in the objectives and course of action by the Secretariat, and to clarify and update the existing text. They also reflect organizational changes resulting from the reorganization of the Secretariat as well as activities previously carried out by the former Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services relating to the reconstruction and development of Lebanon. The activities previously carried out by the Department of Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship in respect of programme 4, Special political questions, trusteeship and decolonization are now being carried out by the Department of Political Affairs. The revisions have not been reviewed by the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

4. The following text modifies the titles of the subprogrammes and paragraphs 4.1, 4.12, 4.14, 4.16, 4.18 to 4.22 and 4.28 of A/45/6/Rev.1.

A. Programme

1. General orientation

5. It is proposed to replace "Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship" with "Department of Political Affairs" throughout the text of this programme.

Paragraph 4.1

In the last sentence after "44/17" add ", as well as activities for enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections as called for by General Assembly resolution 46/137".

After the last sentence, insert the following: "Following the restructuring of the Secretariat, coordination of specified activities relating to the reconstruction and development of Lebanon, which are called for by annual General Assembly resolutions, the most recent being resolution 46/173, will also be carried out under this programme."

2. Overall strategy

Paragraph 4.12

Delete the second sentence.

3. Subprogramme structure and priorities

Paragraph 4.14

Replace "Good offices and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection of information, Political and Security Council affairs, Political and General Assembly

affairs" with "Good offices, preventive diplomacy, and peace-making, peace-keeping, research and the collection and analysis of information, Security Council affairs, General Assembly affairs".

Paragraph 4.16 — Revise titles and renumber subprogrammes to read as follows:

"Subprogramme 1. Special political questions

"Subprogramme 2. Regional, political and security cooperation

"Subprogramme 3. Self-determination, trusteeship and decolonization

"Subprogramme 4. Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections".

B. Subprogrammes

SUBPROGRAMME 1. SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Title of subprogramme — Revise title of subprogramme 1 to read "Special political questions".

Paragraph 4.18 — Add reference to General Assembly resolutions 45/11, 45/13, 45/224, 46/9, 46/20, 46/160, 46/172 and 46/173, and decisions 45/429 and 46/436.

Paragraph 4.19 — At the end of the first sentence, add ", particularly in the light of chapter VI of the Charter on Pacific Settlement of Disputes".

Paragraph 4.20 — In the first sentence, after "associations" insert "in Africa and the Middle East".

Replace the second sentence with the following: "Follow-up and reporting on the assistance being rendered to the front-line States by donor countries, the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations and the progress achieved in the implementation of the General Assembly resolutions concerning special assistance to front-line States will continue in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies and other international and intergovernmental organizations. Follow-up and reporting on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions dealing with cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Coordination Conference will continue in close consultation and cooperation with the latter."

At the end of paragraph 4.20, insert the following: "The Department will monitor political developments in Lebanon that are relevant to the implementation of activities for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon as well as to political coordination of United Nations assistance activities."

Paragraph 4.21

Insert the following before the penultimate sentence: "Economic trends and their political implications in areas of concern to the Office will receive attention."

Insert new paragraphs 4.22 to 4.24 and renumber subsequent paragraphs accordingly:

"4.22. Continuing adverse conditions in Lebanon have severely hindered the Secretary-General's efforts for the reconstruction and development of that country, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 33/146 and subsequent annual resolutions, most recently resolution 46/173. The Department of Political Affairs will continue coordination efforts during the plan period. The scope of activities needed to deal with the likely humanitarian and development needs of Lebanon during the plan period will entail a concerted effort by the entire United Nations system, together with others, with a consequent need for coordination of efforts.

"4.23. By its resolution 681 (1990), dealing with ways and means of ensuring the safety and protection of the Palestinian refugees under Israeli occupation, the Security Council requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, to develop further the idea of convening a meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention and to discuss possible measures that might be taken by them under the Convention and, for this purpose, to invite the Parties to submit their views on how the idea could contribute to the goals of the Convention, as well as on other relevant matters, and to report thereon to the Council. The Security Council also requested the Secretary-General to monitor and observe the situation regarding Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation, making new efforts in this regard on an urgent basis, and to utilize and designate or draw upon the United Nations and other personnel and resources present there, in the area and elsewhere, needed to accomplish this task and to keep the Security Council regularly informed. The Security Council further requested the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council every four months, and decided to remain seized of the matter as necessary.

"4.24. In a presidential statement of 4 April 1992, the members of the Security Council expressed concern about the deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip and requested the Secretary-General to use his good offices, in accordance with resolution 681 (1990), regarding the situation concerning Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation."

Insert a new subprogramme 2 as follows and renumber the following subprogrammes and paragraphs accordingly:

"SUBPROGRAMME 2. REGIONAL, POLITICAL AND SECURITY COOPERATION

"(a) Objectives

"4.27. The legislative authority for the subprogramme is set out in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 43/4, 44/7, 44/8, 44/17, 45/10, 46/13 and 46/24.

"4.28. The policy-making organs, including the Security Council and the General Assembly, have been stressing the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peace-keeping. The presidential statement adopted by the Security Council following its meeting of 31 January 1992, at the level of Heads of State or Government, laid stress on the enhancement of political and security cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations.

"4.29. The objective of the subprogramme will be to promote the implementation of the relevant provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter, entitled 'Regional arrangements'.

"(b) Course of action in the Secretariat

"4.30. Effective general cooperation will continue to be maintained with the secretariats of the regional and interregional organizations, associations and conferences dealing with political matters of concern to the United Nations, in particular through joint meetings, consultations and other forms of liaison with those secretariats. In addition, the following activities will also be carried out under this subprogramme:

"(a) The development and coordination of promotional activities and technical assistance to regional and interregional political and security organizations;

"(b) The implementation of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on cooperation with regional organizations;

"(c) The organization of specialized meetings between the United Nations Secretariat and the secretariats of regional and interregional organizations;

"(d) Preparation of meetings between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the secretaries-general of regional and interregional organizations."

SUBPROGRAMME 2. TRUSTEESHIP AND DECOLONIZATION

Title of subprogramme

Revise the title of subprogramme 2, Trusteeship and decolonization, and renumber to read: "Subprogramme 3. Self-determination, trusteeship and decolonization".

Insert a new subprogramme 4 as follows:

"SUBPROGRAMME 4. ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PERIODIC AND GENUINE ELECTIONS

"(a) Objective

"4.37. The legislative mandate of the subprogramme derives from General Assembly resolution 46/137.

"4.38. Member States have determined that periodic and genuine elections and the right of everyone to take part in the government of his or her country are crucial factors in the effective enjoyment by all of a wide range of other human rights and fundamental freedoms, embracing political, economic, social and cultural rights. They have affirmed the value of the electoral assistance that the United Nations has provided at the request of some Member States, in the context of full respect for their sovereignty and have expressed their belief that the international community should continue to give serious consideration to ways in which the United Nations can respond to the requests of Member States as they seek to promote and strengthen their electoral institutions and procedures.

"4.39. The main objective of the subprogramme is to provide electoral assistance to Member States upon their request. Towards this end an Electoral Assistance Unit has been established, which will seek to assist Member States in the holding and verification of elections as a mechanism to promote peace-making, further the enhancement of human rights and provide development assistance.

"(b) Course of action of the Secretariat

"4.40. In implementing the subprogramme the Secretariat will:

"(a) Coordinate and consider requests for electoral assistance;

"(b) Channel requests for electoral assistance to the appropriate office or programme;

"(c) Develop a system for an institutional memory of United Nations experience in the electoral field;

"(d) Prepare a manual for use by United Nations election monitors;

"(e) Develop a roster of international experts;

"(f) Establish and maintain working relationships with relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations in order to ensure adequate coordination and consistency of responses;

"(g) Organize and conduct workshops on electoral assistance;

"(h) Establish and administer a trust fund for electoral verification."